

BEAUTIFUL MISS DARIEN.

[Times-star.]
"One can never mistake the polish of the golden setting," Cecil Norton lastly remarked, with his big blue eyes fixed upon a young lady who had just entered the crowded drawing-room.

She was a handsome creature, statuesque of figure and classic of feature: her stately head was crowned with waves of shining hair; she had serene dark eyes, a proud red mouth, and hands like molded porcelain. She wore heliotrope satin and silvery brocade with a diamond star on her corsage; and at her throat a diamond star, encircled in the light from a cluster of rich wax tapers near which she had paused.

"One could not help feeling instantly persuaded that the beautiful Miss Darien is an heiress," Cecil Norton resumed, "she is so eminently noticeable for the intangible and impressive something—which only distinguishes those who are born and bred in affluence. A man could be proud of that sort of a girl on his arm, and she would be a prize as a wife."

"The heiress would be a prize for you certainly," Tom Bellaire returned with an old smile and with a suggestion of the satiric in his meaning emphasis.

He has no very cordial esteem for his interlocutor, who was a gray, indolent and somewhat young-looking man of unbecoming features and a decidedly limited income.

"You just strike it there, old man," Norton admitted, with airy nonchalance and with a gingerly twist of his lengthy blonde mustache; "an impetuous fortune like mine must take a wealthy wife or none. But the beautiful Miss Darien pleases me immensely—the golden setting has such a dazzling polish! There is quite a jarring contrast between her and that little thing in indigo silk and apple blossoms—that demure Titania who was carrying her wraps a moment ago."

"Miss Mab and the beautiful Miss Darien are cousins," said Tom, coldly, and still with that old smile.

"Ah, yes, I know," Norton drawled in the slowest voice both were using. "Miss Mab Darien is some poor relation, of course, and one might wonder the beautiful Miss Amabel allows a dependent such extraordinary privileges."

"Privileges?" Tom repeated, with a ripple of a laugh which he promptly checked.

"Why, yes, you know," the other continued, with undisturbed equanimity. "Miss Mab is nimble and trim and rather pretty, and she might make an excellent maid for the heiress; but, really, she ought not to be encouraged to regard herself as a society girl."

"Even if Miss Mab were the maid of an heiress, still would she have the right of equality," Tom responded, with sudden fire. "She is a jewel more precious than all the Darien wealth."

"Ah, really, now, you know," the other began to sputter, as he adjusted an eye-glass preparatory to a polite scrutiny of the emphatic Tom whose fiery speech had mildy astounded him.

But Tom had unconsciously left him, and presently he too turned away.

They had been standing considerably apart from the throng of guests, and just behind them was a charming little alcove, secluded by a sumptuous portiere.

As the moved from the place the tapestry was pushed aside by the fairy hand of an exquisite Titania in indigo silk—a petite girl with eyes as blue as her simple gown and with a face as sweet and daintily lovely as the apple blossoms she wore in her brown hair and amid the soft white laces on her bosom.

There was a look, half roguish and wholly annoyed, upon her small refined countenance as she glanced after the two, who had so incautiously ventured a topic scarcely conformable to the etiquette of the occasion.

Tom had already crossed the threshold drawing room, and at the instant he glided back and perceived her, and in another moment he had turned and was by her side.

"I fancied you were in the ball-room," said he, noting the unfamiliar glow of her soft pink cheeks and the mischievous sparkle of the black eyes, but never guessing that she had been an occupant of the alcove during that interesting dialogue; "and I had a fancy, too, you might not become visible before the waltz you promised me."

"The next is ours," she answered in a manner so demure and shy and gracious that Tom felt his heart leap.

For this Titania in indigo silk and apple blossoms had always seemed to tolerate rather than to desire the devotion of the young man who held her "a jewel" more precious than all the Darien wealth.

"The next waltz is ours," she had said. And the words were common place enough; but there was something in the shy countenance, something in the conscious blush which quickened his pulses and elated his every sense like a draught of wine.

And just then a grand orchestra somewhere sounded a merry dance call; and presently they were whirling down the brilliant ball room together, her dainty brown head "just as high as his heart," her petite figure:

"Her figure? Oh, bring all the graceful things that are borne through the light air by feet or by wings. Not a single new grace to that form could they teach."

Which confides in itself the perfection of each: While rapid or slow, as her fairy foot fall, The music of melody modulates all."

"Mab waltzes as she does everything else, conscientiously and enthusiastically," said the beautiful Amabel, who, in her serene and stately way was watching the dancers and listening to the gallant and effusive platitudes of Cecil Norton.

"Ah, but you know, she has not the dignified ease, the poetic grace of movement, obtainable only by those who are born and bred in the elegancies of the affluent," Norton said, with his characteristic drawl and with a most fastidious adjustment of his indispensable eye-glass. "You appreciate these nice distinctions, I am sure, Miss Darien—you who were cradled in the purple, and who adorn your wealth with graces which even affluence can not give and which even penury could not take away. Your beneficence toward your cousin is something touching and extraordinary, really."

"Perhaps the beautiful Miss Darien had not been profoundly attentive; perhaps the rhythmic sounds of the dance were more enthralling than the insinuating undertones of flattery; however that might be, she looked provokingly unconscious of his adulatory utterances."

"Mab deserves all her extraordinary advantages," said she, perhaps absently or perhaps with a sportive intent to affect misapprehension. "She is the most generous of girls and has been most helpful to me."

"An, but she ought to make herself helpful to you," he suggested with an expressive shrug. "That she does so is entirely commendable and quite astonishing, really."

"I am afraid I do not understand," Miss Amabel said with reserve.

"Well, really, you know, when one is generous to relatives who happen to be in reduced circumstances, one is not always recompensed with any practical sort of gratitude," he explained, still airily, but with some vague confusion.

The stately and serene Amabel stared the least bit, frowned just perceptibly, and then laughed—a brief and subdued laugh of amused comprehension not unminged with a subtle disdain.

"The similarity of name has misled you,

M. Norton," she informed him. "Mab is the wealthy Miss Darien, and I am afraid I must acknowledge that I am the dependent relation in reduced circumstances; or more correctly, rather, but for her helpful generosity, I should have remained where I was born and bred, in a sphere too lowly to be reduced, and too poor to be made poorer," she added with scornful candor.

For a moment there was silence—a silence which was not disconcerting to the discomfited young gentleman who flinched with his eyes glass and nose uneasily to his feet. And just then Tom brought back from the waltz the Titania in indigo silk and apple blossoms, and somehow her fairy presence seemed to dissolve the oppressive spell.

And then Cecil Norton became speedily mindful that he too had stipulated for a waltz, and that he must be inconspicuous if the condescension were denied him.

But Mab shook her small head—the pretty brown head which had just rested against a loyal heart, which he would not disturb by a waltz with another. But she could grant him a quadrille, if he choose.

And he did choose with amazing alacrity, and when the quadrille was over he strategically alluded her to the conservatory—a most romantic and delectable and convenient spot, as every sane and righteous novelist has persistently and untiringly assured us.

What he meant to explain perhaps he had not yet determined; but he felt he had made himself ridiculous, and he had a wild and bewildered wish to regain the esteem he had forfeited.

What rash incoherencies he uttered perhaps he did not realize; he only knew that when the Titania in apple blossoms and indigo silks stood erect and contemptuous before his entreating gaze; he only knew that his discomfiture was complete.

"The quadrille must have unsettled your senses, Mr. Norton," she said, coolly. "You can not possibly have any preference for me. I chanced to be in the alcove behind the tapestry portiere while you were discussing your special preferences. You would prefer the golden setting with a dazzling polish, and you care only for people who are notable for the unmistakable insignia of patrician birth and superior breeding," she continued, with a little laugh of unassumed mirth, commingled with her girlish contempt.

"Ah, yes; but then, you know, you need not turn a bit of eye against me like that," he suddenly muttered, as he walked disconsolately away.

And of all the quartet he alone was left disconcerted. Amabel had never cared for him, and happy in her prestige, the beautiful Miss Darien did not pine for his devotion.

And Tom Bellaire was certainly satisfied. He had gained what he had come for, and he had gained "the jewel more precious than all the Darien wealth."

A New Kind of Cruiser for the British Navy.

[Glasgow Herald.]

The new belted cruisers, or, as they have been called in Parliament, the "new Merseys," for which certain shipbuilders have just been invited to tender, differ from their more recent predecessors in having ten feet more beam, being 300 feet by 36 feet, and in having an increase of 1,300 tons in the displacement, making them up to 5,000 tons.

The protective deck has been replaced by an armor belt 20 feet long, formed of 10 inch steel-faced armor of 6 inch of backing. The ends are protected by an underwater belt similar to the Mersey's. As the ends of the belted cruisers are very fine, the part of the water line not actually protected by armor is proportionately small. The engines of these vessels are to be 7,500-horsepower, to be obtained by the use of forced draught in a closed stokehold. There are four boilers, double-ended, having a total surface of about 800 square feet, and working at a pressure of 120 pounds. Their total weight is not to exceed 720 tons. They are of a similar type to those supplied to the Leader class by Messrs. Robert Napier & Sons, having cast steel framing and hollock steel shafting.

The armament consists of two 18-inch guns, arranged—one forward, to fire all round, and one aft, to fire through a similar sweep round the stern. In addition to these, there are twenty 4-inch guns and six machine guns. A torpedo armament will also be provided both above and under water. The construction of the hulls does not materially differ from that of the smaller and earlier ironclads of the Mersey's navy, such as the Hydra, Nelson and Conqueror, but they are of steel throughout.

These belted cruisers will each be manned by a crew of from 330 to 350 officers and men, for whom very good accommodation is found on the upper deck above the water line. All the usual refinements of a cruiser have to be provided in their most modern form. When completed these vessels will be works of modern engineering second to none. As vessels of war they can not fail to be formidable. Their weak point appears to be their speed, which is not to be more than eighteen knots.

Dogs at the White House.

[Letter to Philadelphia Times.]

Many who came in early noticed three forlorn-looking dogs on the front porch, who stood there a while watching the crowd queuing through the door and then scampered off in different directions. One is the famous "yellow dog" that made his reappearance after four years just before the inauguration in company with another hungry specimen, and the third, a tall, black animal, that looks as if he had seen better days, joined the delegation on the 5th. Since then this trio have lived at the White House—that is to say, they sleep in a hedge of bushes that protect the marble fountain just in front of the house and apply regularly each night at the kitchen doors down stairs for rations.

Ague-Shaken Sufferers who resort to Hostetter's Kidney Bitters experience speedier and more complete relief than they can hope to do by the use of quinine. This well-authenticated fact is of itself sufficient to have established a high reputation for the Bitters. But the article is not a specific merely for the various forms of malarial disease. It endows the system with a degree of vigor, and reforms its irregularities with a certainty that constitutes its best defense against disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels especially where the atmosphere and water are miasmata-tainted. Fever and ague, bilious remittent, dumb ague and acute rheumatism are remedied and prevented by it, and it also removes dyspepsia, constipation, rheumatism, etc. Take the medicine on the first indication that the system is out of order, and rest assured that you will be grateful for the hint.

Metallization.

[Boston Herald.]

We have boldly affirmed to the world that we would not receive European goods into our markets, if we could by any possibility prevent their entrance, and now the European nations are in their turn closing their ports against our products.

Erysipelas is a dangerous disease. Not infrequently does it take such a form as to carry off its victim after a period of intense suffering. Charles R. Lucas, of Zanesville, O., writes: "For three years my wife has been suffering from erysipelas. She has tried numerous physicians, but received no benefit. She commenced using Mialler's Herb Bitters about a month since, and is now entirely well."

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